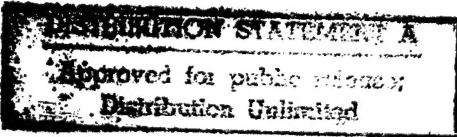


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"Outer Solar System Nomenclature"

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Submitted by

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OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM NOMENCLATURE
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The outer solar system nomenclature work involves the compilation and evaluation of names for surface features on satellites of the outer planets and designations for new satellites and rings. At the present time, the main emphasis in this area is given to new names for features on the satellites of Jupiter required by the Galileo Mission. During the last year, numerous new names for features on Callisto, Ganymede, Europa and Io have been reviewed and sent forward to the IAU for approval. A meeting with Prof. Kaare Aksnes in Oslo in April 1997 enabled detailed discussion of the procedures currently in force with the result that some streamlining has become possible.

In addition to the extensive work on Jovian satellites, there have been requests for new names on Mars as a result of the Pathfinder and Surveyor missions. Owen has worked directly with Dr. Bradford A. Smith, the current chair of the Mars Task Group to select suitable commemorative craters for distinguished, recently deceased scientists who have contributed to studies of Mars. Some of these names have been approved at the IAU meetings in Kyoto in August 1997, but others require a longer waiting time (in response to the three year limit) and more discussion before a consensus is reached on suitable features. Owen presented some of these cases to Prof. Aksnes during their Oslo meeting in April.

Aksnes visited Owen and Smith in October 1997 and an informal WGPSN meeting was held with the additional attendance of Mr. Merton Davies in Honolulu. At this meeting, all of the nomenclature activity for the previous year was reviewed. A new scheme was proposed by Owen for naming features on the surface of Titan. The name "Titan" refers to a class of giants who were defeated by the Greek Gods. It therefore seems fitting to name features on the surface of this satellite after beings and places from the legends of ancient peoples who were displaced by subsequent migrations or conquests. This embraces a proposal by Dr. Mark Lemmon to name the principal albedo feature on Titan from sources associated with native Americans in the southwest.